

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION  
PROGRAMS, GRANTS & SERVICES COMMITTEE**

September 3, 2015

Arts Commission Office, 100 N. Senate Avenue, Room N505

Allen Rent, Chair

Minutes

Members present: Karen Ellerbrook, Pam Hicks, Jennifer Perry, Micah Smith

Members via teleconference: Al Rent, Nancy Stewart, Linda Levell, Miah Michaelson  
(deputy director designate)

Members absent: Allen Platt

Arts Commission staff present: Ann Fields, Sarah Fronczek, Stephanie Pfendler, Lewis Ricci, Paige Sharp

**1. Welcome and Introductions.** Chair Al Rent called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and asked for everyone to introduce themselves. Commissioner Nancy Stewart extended a warm welcome to new Commissioner, Jennifer Perry.

**2. Consent agenda.** Al Rent calls to approve the agenda for today and the meeting minutes for June 19, 2015.

Karen Ellerbrook	Yes
Linda Levell	Yes
Jennifer Perry	Yes
Al Rent	Yes
Micah Smith	Yes
Nancy Stewart	Yes

**3. Capacity Building Program Update.** Arts Commission Communications and Community Engagement Manager Ann Fields reported that of the 38 proposals received by the August 12 deadline, the review session of those proposals concluded that none fulfilled the RFP guidelines to be funded as submitted. Of the 22 viable proposals, a pattern of 3 similar ideas emerged: access, creative place, and organizational development. Arts Commission Executive Director Lewis Ricci suggested that the next step is to go back, clarify, broker relationships and recast “these focal areas and get them in shape enough to maybe encumber monies in this fiscal year.” Commissioner Al Rent questioned whether or not this was due to applicants “misunderstanding” guidelines. Mr. Ricci provided possible causes ranging from applications submitted as grants versus an RFP to appropriation of the majority of funds for administrative fees. Ann Fields added that of the viable submissions, Arts United proposal outlines a state wide economic impact study which is of interest

because “we could use it to inform our future programs.” Commissioner Pam Hicks joins the meeting.

**4. Regional Initiatives Grants Update.** Arts Commission Director of Programs Paige Sharp summarized the FY15 final RIG reports with the top challenges and successes reported from the approximate 268 grant partners. Of the successes, outstanding attendance, sold out performances and new audiences were at the top along with successes in fundraising attributed in part to more strategic efforts in outreach and collaboration. Of the challenges, Fundraising and staff turnover/retention were at the top. Paige then presented a color coded map (attached) visually describing the 12 regions, the number of applicants per county and the number of those applicants actually funded. The next step is to work on a map to show where the funded programs actually occur, which will change the questions we ask our grantees in future reporting. In looking at counties where applicants and funding are non-existent, Mr. Ricci cautioned that while our goal is to have direct funding in as many counties as possible, “we are in the business of responding to what is out there and supporting it appropriately” not “artificially” creating funding. We do not want to create organizations and projects in a county, if it doesn’t come from the people of that county.

**5. PACE Program Update.** Arts Commission Community Development Manager and Education Coordinator Sarah Fronczek was very excited about the fact that “as we sit here meeting ... we probably have PACE activities going on with our students.” Sarah presented the Advisory committee meeting minutes (attached) which approved the programs implementation and the assessment documents that the programs are using in order to track the students progress. These will provide the pertinent data necessary to analyze and translate into measurable outcomes. Bob Sable will be collating and analyzing the resultant data. In answer to Commissioner Al Rent’s question, “what is the end result,” Mr. Ricci responds that it is “to have documented, credible, scientific data to show that student and school performance is advanced when the arts are used as a tool.” The hope is to eventually use the evidence to affect state policy. Sarah will be visiting the sites and tracking progress throughout the year. Sarah extended an invitation to anyone who would like to join her on site visits.

## **6. Bicentennial Update.**

**A. Indiana Masterpiece.** Paige Sharp reported that we have had 104 notices of intent and 84 opened applications with 69 total applications received representing 23 counties from all 12 regions. The amount requested by all applicants totals \$920,158. \$160,000 is the total available funds to cover both FY16 and FY17. Each applicant is allowed to request up to \$20,000 per project. Mr. Ricci posited that if we fund only the projects that request the full amount, we will only fund 8 projects. If we decide to fund those who are asking for a lower amount, then the funding will have a wider reach. After scoring and evaluation of projects is completed, staff will make recommendations to the commission on fund dispersal and adjustment.

**B. Arts In the Park.** Paige Sharp reported on application deadlines which are September 9<sup>th</sup> for organizations and September 14<sup>th</sup> for individual artists. Currently,

there are 71 applications open with 39 for individual artists and 32 for organizations. The goal is 100 applications. Paige recognized the great job Arts Commission Community Development Manager, Rebecca Hopson, has done navigating new territories and forging new relationships in this nascent program.

**C. Bicentennial Special Projects.** Paige Sharp reports that Donna Weaver has submitted the final drawing for the Bicentennial Medal. For the Bicentennial Plaza, 8 artists have completed site visits and will submit their proposals. The Plaza jury will convene on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The plaza is to be installed in July of 2016 with the dedication set for October of 2016.

**7. Funding Adjustment.** Mr. Ricci in conversation on the Bicentennial projects, discusses legislative funding and questions the commission will need to ask and answer in regards to recasting Bicentennial funding. In regards to the Indiana Masterpiece program “which will come and go” we need to begin thinking about future projects that “may still highlight and champion the best of Indiana arts” but may not be this particular program. Mr. Ricci suggests that perhaps what we are “championing and highlighting in Indiana arts may be going back to the schools.” He continues, we may decide to transfer those funds to continuing and supporting the PACE program. The commission also needs to consider the original amount allotted for the Arts in the Parks programs. For instance, if the budget isn’t met, do we do it again in 6 months?

**8. Modification Form.** Paige Sharp presented the Modification Form (attached) to update the protocol through which budgets are reported in case of significant changes to an AOS or APS budget post-application. The motion is to approve the modification for a later vote. Commissioner Micah Smith Moves to vote. Commissioner Karen Ellerbrook Seconds the Motion.

Karen Ellerbrook	Yes
Pam Hicks	Yes
Linda Levell	Yes
Al Rent	Yes
Micah Smith	Yes
Nancy Stewart	Yes

The Motion is approved.

**8. Old Business.** There was no old business.

**9. New Business.** There was no new business.

**10. Adjourn.** Chair of the Programs Grants and Services Committee, Al Rent, closed the meeting by unanimous consensus at 2:38 p.m.